



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School

NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 04/09/2026.

Edwinstree Term dates: Term Dates 2026-27

Homework week: -

Diary Dates:

9-11/09/26	Year 7 Residential
23/09/26	Freman College Open Evening
24/09/26	Year 5 Educational Visit – Whipsnade Zoo
01/10/26	Edwinstree Open Evening 6pm - 8pm. Headteacher speaks at 6.15pm
12/10/26	Flu Vaccinations – All Years
20/10/26	Year 5 “Getting to know you” Parents meeting 5pm
26/10-30/10/26	Half Term
06/11/26	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
11-12/11/26	Year 6 Lancaster Model
17/11/26	Flu vaccination Mop Up
19/11/26	Year 7 Hertfordshire Lieutenancy presentation
03/12/26	INSET DAY
04/12/26	Occasional Day
18/12/26	End of Term 1.20pm.

Contents

Thank you to Parents	1
What is the purpose of the weekly newsletter?	1
Arbor	2
Questions	2
Afterschool Enrichment Clubs	2
When does Homework start?.....	2
PE Timetables	2
Mobile phones - DfE guidance	2
Smart Watches	2
Free School Meals - Universal Credit	2
Current Staff Changes	2
Required stationery equipment	3
Fidget Aids	3
Maze Competition.....	3
Year 5 News:.....	3
How to Thrive in Y5!	3
Congratulations Year 5	3
What is Year 5 Getting to know you meeting on 20th October about?	3
Year 7 News:.....	3
Year 7 Residential – 9 th to 11 th September.	3
Year 8 News:.....	4
Upper School Applications	4
NHS Hertfordshire Partnership.....	4
Guided Parent groups	4
Freman College - Teaching Assistant vacancy	4

Thank you to Parents

A huge thank you to Parents – It was lovely to welcome your child back to school this week, thank you for ensuring they were prepared for the new term, with uniform and equipment. **Please may we remind you to place your child's name in all uniform, remember to label everything!**

Edwinstree gets 30% commission on labels at Stikins, if you quote our fundraising number 6671 at <http://www.stikins.co.uk>

What is the purpose of the weekly newsletter?

This newsletter is designed to help you to know what is happening in school and why. If you take the time to click on the titles that are relevant to you and your child, we guarantee that it will stop the mad panic when you just find out your child has Technology on the morning and needs equipment/ food etc. May we steer you that while WhatsApp parent groups can be helpful, they are not always accurate in the guidance they give you, so look here first if you are unsure about an event, a Food and Nutrition lesson etc.

*As a Christian school we recognise the unique and wonderful in everyone.
As a community we support one another to flourish and live life in all its fullness.*

Arbor

You should have now received an email about how to log into Arbor. This will be the way we inform you of 'merits' and behaviour incidents, homework in Y5, as well as receiving communication from the school. As we progress through the school year, you will see that we will begin to use Arbor more.

As mentioned in previous correspondence, please can we ask that you use the timetables on our website rather than Arbor as until PE and Tech groups are all sorted, they are incomplete. We will let you know when this is all sorted.

In the short term, homework in Y6-Y8 will still be set on Satchel as this is what students are used to. Satchel should be set up for homework from the week beginning 14th September.

Questions

Over the summer the school migrated to Arbor MIS and registrations to the parent portal/app were issued. Answers to frequently asked questions are below:

- The Arbor app still shows my child's previous school.
 - We are aware this is happening for some people, and we are working to resolve.
- I have children at different schools that both use Arbor why can I only see one child's account?
 - As the parent portal is linked to the school, it is unable to link multiple children at different schools. You will need to select the appropriate school for the child that you want to view when you log into the app.
- I have multiple children at Edwinstree, why can I only see one child?
 - You can switch between your children by pressing the account icon on the bottom right of the app and selecting "switch student". If you still cannot see your child's account, please email admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk and we will make an adjustment which will resolve this issue.
- I have not received an email about the Arbor parent portal.
 - Please check your spam folder first. If it is not there, please email admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Further information on all of these questions and more are available on the Arbor help centre on this link [Logging in to the Parent Portal & Parent App – Arbor Help Centre](#)

Afterschool Enrichment Clubs

Sign-up sheets for our Enrichment afterschool clubs and a full list of clubs will be out next week, giving you time to sign up before they begin the week after.

When does Homework start?

Homework begins from the 14th of September.

KS2 (year 5 & 6) receive English, Maths and Science homework.

KS3 (year 7 & 8) receive the same and in addition the foundation subjects i.e. Music, DT, Geography, History once every two weeks.

PE Timetables

Please find attached our Autumn PE timetable for all years.

Mobile phones - DfE guidance

As you are aware, the DfE have instructed schools to become a mobile free environment during the school day. Thank you for supporting us with the changes we made; we will continue to remind students over the next couple of weeks whilst this embeds. It was really interesting to see how much more student interaction there was in the 10 minutes before the bell went.

Smart Watches

If a pupil can play games, make/accept phone calls, make/receive texts or access the camera then they will need to hand in their watch as they would a phone during school hours. Thank you for your support in this. In past we have found students are still learning how to use these devices well and have mistakenly video recorded other students and or staff and posted on social media sites without any permission from the individual being filmed.

Free School Meals - Universal Credit

If you applied for Free School Meals and you were advised that you are eligible under the new criteria, we can now confirm that all systems are updated and as a result, there will be no charge for any future school meals that are booked. Your child may still choose to bring a packed lunch from home.

Please note that any outstanding debt from the previous academic year will still need to be settled.

To book a school meal for your child, please log in to [SchoolGrid](#) and place your order. Meals can be booked daily up until 8:55am, or alternatively on a weekly or termly basis. If you have already booked a school meal and your child decides to have a packed lunch instead, we kindly ask that you cancel the meal booking before 8:55am. This helps us to reduce food waste. Thank you for your cooperation.

Current Staff Changes

Mr Brown is currently absent from school and appropriate arrangements have been put in place with our regular supply of Ms Randall, covering his Monday lessons and Mr Linnane covering Tuesday through to Friday. Both supply teachers are qualified, experienced and senior primary teachers.

With our Year 7 residential taking place at the end of next week, we will see cover of staff taking place to accommodate. Internal staff will cover the majority of lessons with two supply teachers, one in PE and one back filling where internal staff are unable to cover.

Your child will receive in their Tuesday morning PowerPoint information about where their cover lessons will be taking place during the week.

Required stationery equipment

To support your child to learn, please may we ask that you provide them with the following:

- Pencil case
- Blue or black pens
- Green pen
- HB pencils
- Ruler (30cm measured in cm and mm)
- Rubber
- Sharpener
- Whiteboard pen/rubber
- Glue stick.
- A small pack of colouring pencils (basic colours)
- [Year 7&8: scientific calculator](#)
- You may wish to provide highlighter pens.

Any parent that is struggling to manage this please contact s.marler@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk Mrs Marler is here to help.

Fidget Aids

We have recently seen a significant increase in pupils using fidget aids during lessons.



Fidget aids can have both positive and negative effects. They may help to improve focus and act as a tool for managing stress. However, not all fidget aids are beneficial for learning. Items that require visual attention, include a game element, or make noise can actually reduce concentration, both for the pupil using them and for others in the class. Some items may also be unsuitable for certain subjects, such as science, due to health and safety considerations. As with any personal item brought into school, fidget aids may be lost or shared inappropriately. Unfortunately, we cannot take responsibility for this.

At Edwinstree, pupils already benefit from movement breaks throughout the day, as well as access to our Wellbeing Hub, where they can regulate their emotions when needed. Before allowing your child to bring a fidget aid into school, please ensure they understand the following expectations:

- I use fidgets to help me focus so that I can learn.
- I keep my fidget on my desk or in my hands.
- I do not show or pass my fidget to others.
- I put my fidget away when I am finished with it.
- I understand that if I do not follow these rules, my fidget may be removed.
- I understand that staff are not responsible if my fidget is lost or damaged.

Suitable fidget aids include simple items such as squiggle aids, foam shapes, or chewable sensory tools.

The following items **are not permitted**:

- Items that make noise
- Items with a gaming component
- Items with small parts that could pose a choking hazard (e.g. Tech Decks)
- Items containing gel or liquid that could leak or burst

Thank you for your support.

Maze Competition

Edwinstree Middle School is privileged to be working in partnership with the Woodland Trust to design and create a full size, working maze on the school field. The competition was introduced to most students at the end of the summer term. Some missed this opportunity due to school trips and/or other activities that were taking place in the school. We have made the decision to extend the competition deadline to Friday September 11th so that all students have the chance to enter a design into the competition. The winner will have their design used and they will have full involvement in the final creation of the maze. Please see the attached PowerPoint for details.

Year 5 News:

How to Thrive in Y5!

Attached is a guide for our new Year 5 pupils created by students, they detail some useful pointers and remind them that we are all here to help. Please do use with your child and enjoy hearing from our pupil 'experts!' Please find the guides attached to the newsletter.

Congratulations Year 5

Congratulations on navigating your first week with us. We know it is daunting, so many new faces and rooms! Thank you for trusting us, for telling us when you are not ok and for sharing your needs. We look forward to getting to know you all more and discovering your 'wonderfuls'!

What is Year 5 Getting to know you meeting on 20th October about?

This is a time for Year 5 Parents to come and meet the tutor and hear how the tutor group are settling in. You will also hear from the mental health and SEND team and the Head of Maths, and English about what learning your child will be doing this year. Your child is welcome to attend with you.

Year 7 News:

Year 7 Residential – 9th to 11th September.

We are looking forward to spending time with the students.

Please be aware that on certain activities clothing will get wet and muddy, and all items should be named to avoid loss. Please ensure any medication is handed to Reception and a Med1 form completed.

Year 8 News:

Upper School Applications

Applications for secondary/upper school places to start in September 2027 opened Tuesday 1st September 2026, for children in year 8 (in middle schools).

Please be aware that the deadline for applications to secondary and upper schools is fast approaching. Parents will need to make an application online or on paper by the closing date of 31st October 2026. We would recommend that parents complete their applications by Friday 23rd October, so that if there are any queries, they can be dealt with by the Admissions Team ahead of the deadline. Parents should apply online: [Click here](https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions)



NHS Hertfordshire Partnership

Guided Parent groups

Please find attached details regarding a guided parent delivered programme.

Freman College - Teaching Assistant vacancy

Please see vacancy details.

Mrs J. Gant – Executive Head
admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

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